

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

(ISO) W

-----036903 240156Z /64

R 212025Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 459

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

DIA WASHDC

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1. THE US SENATE'S APPROVAL OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES HAS ELICITED WIDESPREAD APPROVAL IN BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENTAL, POLITICAL AND JORNALISTIC CIRCLES. IN ADDITION TO VIEWING THE TREATIES AS CORRECTING AN "ABNORMAL" SITUATION, BOLIVIANS TEND TO REGARD THEM AS A PRECEDENT FOR RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF THEIR GEOGRAPHIC ENCLOSURE.

2. ON APRIL 19, PRESIDENT BANZER ISSUED A BRIEF PRESS STATEMENT. TEXT: "THE VOTE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE WHICH RECTIFIES A SITUATION OF INJUSTICE THAT PREVAILED IN REGARD TO THE PANAMA CANAL HAS CAUSED DEEP AND SINCERE SATISFACTION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BOLIVIA. WE BELIEVE THAT THE JUST AND NOBLE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES IN APPROVING THE REVISION OF THE TREATIES OF 1903 BETWEEN THAT COUNTRY AND PANAMA CONSTITUTES AN EXTRAORDINARY PRECEDENT THAT WILL PERMIT, I AM SURE, THE RESOLUTION, WITHIN A NOT VERY LONG PERIOD, OF OTHER SIMILAR PROBLEMS AND SITUATIONS OF INJUSTICE THAT STILL PREVAIL AND DISTURB THE TRANQUILITY OF OUR CONTINENT". END TEXT.

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3. BANZER'S STATEMENT DOVETAILS WITH REMARKS HE MADE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 13 CONCERNING THE NEED TO REVISE THE 1904 TREATY, WHICH FORMALLY ENDED THE WAR BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND CHILE (1879-83). BANZER SAID THAT CHANGES IN THE TREATY SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED BILATERALLY "WITH THE CONSENT OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED, AND IN THIS SENSE THE REVISION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES SETS A GOOD EXAMPLE."

4. IN THIS SAME VEIN, THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED A PERSONAL LETTER, DATE APRIL 19, FROM LA PAZ MAYOR MARIO MERCADO (TEXT POUCHED). AFTER EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CANAL TREATIES, MERCADO SAID THAT BOLIVIA'S CONTINUED GEOGRAPHIC ENCLOSURE, IN ADDITION TO BEING AN AFRONT TO JUSTICE, POSED A GREAT OBSTACLE TO ITS DEVELOPMENT. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE SENATE'S DECISION "REAFFIRMED (BOLIVIA'S) HOPES" BY DEMONSTRATING THAT "IMPERFECTIONS" IN EXISTING TREATIES COULD BE ELIMINATED.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GENUINE, BOLIVIA'S CURRENT OUTPOURING OF GOODWILL IS CLOSELY LINKED TO ITS FRUSTRATED ATTEMPTS TO BOTAIN A SEA OUTLET FROM CHILE. IT IS A SAFE BET THAT FUTURE BOLIVIAN REQUESTS FOR US SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE WILL ALSO INVOKE THE CANAL TREATIES "PRECEDENT".
BOEKER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780432/aaaabajl.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: <DBA CHANGED> VJT 20040914
Subject: APPROVAL OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, BL, US, PN
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Type: TE
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